

~~SECRET~~

NSC BRIEFING

24 September 1954

SITUATION IN LAOS

- I. Defense minister killed on 18 Sept;
foreign minister reportedly quits
on 21st.
 - A. Defense minister had favored
deal with Viet Minh-sponsored
rebel chief.
 - B. No known connection with
killing.
- II. Since early Sept. govt. had sought
compromise with rebel leader Sou-
phanouvong, half-brother of premier.
 - A. Govt. hopes to wean rebel
chief away from Viet Minh.
 - B. He reportedly willing support
govt. if it rids self of
Western influence.
 - C. Crown Prince Savang opposes
deal with rebel chief.

~~SECRET~~